

SHM path integral

Start with a hammy:

$$H(P, Q) = \frac{P^2}{2m} + \frac{m\omega^2 Q^2}{2} \quad (1)$$

In path integrals, operators are functions so $P \rightarrow p$ and $Q \rightarrow q$. Here we're interested in ground state to ground state, because of reasons. Using:

$$\langle 0|0\rangle = \langle 0|q_n\rangle \langle q_{n-1}|q_{n-2}\rangle \dots \langle q_1|0\rangle \quad (2)$$

\Downarrow

$$\langle 0|0\rangle = \int \mathcal{D}p \mathcal{D}q \exp \left[i \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dt (p\dot{q} - (1 - i\epsilon)H + fq) \right] \quad (3)$$

Where H is Weyl-ordered (average of normal and anti-normal ordering).

Applying $(1 - i\epsilon)$ on H will pick out the ground states in $\pm\infty$ time, leads to the following transforms:

$$\frac{1}{2}m\omega^2 q \rightarrow \frac{1}{2}(1 - i\epsilon)m\omega^2 \quad (4)$$

and

$$\frac{1}{2m}p^2 \rightarrow \frac{1}{2(1 - i\epsilon)m}p^2 = \frac{(1 - i\epsilon)(1 + i\epsilon)}{2m(1 + i\epsilon)}p^2 = \frac{1 + i\epsilon - i\epsilon + \mathcal{O}(2)}{2m(1 + i\epsilon)}p^2 \quad (5)$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{1}{2m}p^2 \rightarrow \frac{1}{2(1 + i\epsilon)m}p^2 \quad (6)$$

subbing back into 3:

$$\langle 0|0\rangle = \int \mathcal{D}p \mathcal{D}q \exp \left[i \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dt \left(p\dot{q} - \frac{p^2}{(1 + i\epsilon)2m} - \frac{1 - i\epsilon}{2}m\omega^2 q^2 + fq \right) \right] \quad (7)$$

now the sweet insides can be integrated out over $\mathcal{D}p$ to turn it into a laggy, using $\partial_p \mathcal{H} = \dot{q}$:

$$\langle 0|0\rangle = \int \mathcal{D}q \exp \left[i \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dt \left(\frac{1}{2}(1 + i\epsilon)m\dot{q}^2 - \frac{1}{2}(1 - i\epsilon)m\omega^2 q^2 + fq \right) \right] \quad (8)$$

Next up, perform a fourier transform to get this shit into functions of energies and shit. Use these variables, they're good, trust me, you are me after all:

$$q(t) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{dE}{\tau} e^{-iEt} \tilde{q}(t) \quad (9)$$

$$\dot{q}(t) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} -\frac{dE}{\tau} iE e^{-iEt} \tilde{q}(t) \quad (10)$$

$$\tilde{q}(E) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dt e^{iEt} q(t) \quad (11)$$

Now take all that rubbish and shove it into the terms in 9

do not forget that there's squared variables so we'll have to integrate over two different variables, thus E and E', and t and t'

$$\langle 0|0\rangle_f = \int \mathcal{D}q \exp \left\{ \frac{i}{2} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{dE}{\tau} \frac{dE'}{\tau} e^{-i(E+E')t} \left[\left(-(1 + i\epsilon)EE' - (1 - i\epsilon)\omega^2 \right) \tilde{q}(E)\tilde{q}(E') + \tilde{f}(E)\tilde{q}(E') + \tilde{f}(E')\tilde{q}(E) \right] \right\} \quad (12)$$

Now it looks like a fucking goddamn mess, but we can integrate over E' using a neat delta function:

$$\tau\delta(a - b) = \int dx e^{i(a-b)x} \quad (13)$$